

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 294, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 294, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-346) on the resolution (H. Res. 602) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2830) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 238) honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 238

Whereas beginning in April 1975, Pol Pot led the Communist guerilla group, the Khmer Rouge, in a large-scale insurgency in Cambodia that forcibly removed Cambodians

from their homes and into labor camps in an attempt to restructure Khmer society;

Whereas traditional Khmer culture and society were systematically destroyed, including the destruction of temples, schools, hospitals, homes, and historic buildings;

Whereas the Khmer Rouge separated and destroyed families and punished and killed innocent civilians, including women, children, doctors, nurses, clergy, teachers, business owners, intellectuals and artisans;

Whereas more than 1.7 million Cambodians, or approximately 21 percent of the population, were killed in one of the worst atrocities of the last century;

Whereas many people were executed simply for being educated, wealthy, or even for wearing glasses as they were seen as bourgeois or contaminated with Western influence;

Whereas after the Khmer Rouge regime was overthrown in 1979, thousands of Cambodians fled on foot to refugee camps in Thailand and many refugees were processed again in other camps in the Philippines and Indonesia;

Whereas from these refugee camps approximately 145,149 Cambodians made their way to the United States, with the majority arriving in the early 1980s and settling in communities across the United States;

Whereas despite the tremendous loss of family members, homes, and even parts of their heritage during the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodians have shown courage and enormous resiliency;

Whereas, according to United States Census Bureau figures, there are approximately 206,053 Cambodians currently living in the United States;

Whereas the new generation of Cambodian-Americans continues to contribute to all aspects of American society as writers, doctors, professors, and community leaders; and

Whereas the United Nations has taken affirmative steps to establish an international criminal tribunal to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Cambodian genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the victims of the genocide in Cambodia that took place beginning in April 1975 and ending in January 1979; and

(2) welcomes the establishment of an international criminal tribunal to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Cambodian genocide, with the hope that proceedings of the tribunal will meet international standards of justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Thirty years ago, as we all know, Cambodia was thrust into 4-years of hellish chaos that claimed the lives of one-fifth of that country's population. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge regime attempted a radical restructuring of Cambodia, systematically destroying traditional Khmer society, forcibly relocating large portions of the population, and purging those whom it regarded as bourgeois, or culturally contaminated. Their movement, which claimed to be a Communist effort to create a classless, utopian state, was, in fact, a genocide.

By the time it ended, 1.7 million Cambodians were dead. It stands as one of the worst crimes of the 20th century and a shocking example of what becomes possible when the dignity of the human person is subordinated to political ideology.

Faced with the terror of the Khmer Rouge, many thousands of Cambodians did what you and I would do in that situation. They and their families fled their homeland, becoming refugees. Of those numbers, more than 145,000 resettled in the U.S. where they have contributed to the strength of communities throughout our Nation. We are proud of our Cambodian American population, which has demonstrated such resilience and industry.

We also are hopeful that there may be yet justice and accountability for the Cambodian genocide. We welcome the steps that the U.N. has taken toward establishing an international criminal tribunal for that purpose. Although that body has yet to become operational, we hope that, when it does, its proceedings will be substantive, transparent and credible.

In light of its history, I am proud that this body is taking up H. Con. Res. 238 which honors the victims of the genocide in Cambodia and welcomes the prospect of justice for that great crime. I want to especially thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for introducing this resolution and urge its unanimous adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend my good friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for introducing this important resolution. Her leadership on behalf of all Cambodian-Americans is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, one of the saddest chapters in world history began to unfold in the nation of Cambodia. With the victory of the Khmer Rouge, millions of men, women and children were forced from their homes into the countryside and prison labor camps throughout the nation.

They were told they faced "reeducation." Instead they suffered crimes against humanity that became a genocide.

Entire categories of Cambodians were immediately marked for torture and execution by the Khmer Rouge—educated Cambodians, wealthy Cambodians, individuals associated with the previous government, even Cambodians who wore glasses.

Thousands of innocent people were herded into Phnom Penh's infamous S-21 prison. Once behind bars, they were tortured by the Khmer Rouge until they confessed to their so-called crimes. After the confessions were duly recorded and the photos of the doomed were taken and filed away, the imprisoned individuals were summarily executed.

When the killing was over 4 years later, over 1.7 million Cambodians were dead. Many